



DIVISIONS  
ENERGY  
GAS AND OIL  
GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES  
MINED LAND RECLAMATION  
MINERAL MINING  
MINES  
ADMINISTRATION

# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

## *Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy*

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### Coal Surface Mining Reclamation Regulations Effective March 18

**RICHMOND, VA** – A series of amendments to Virginia's Coal Surface Mining Reclamation Regulations will be published in the Virginia Register of Regulations on February 16, 2009, and will become effective March 18, 2009, the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) announced today.

The amendments maintain consistency with corresponding federal regulations, allow more natural design of stream restoration channels, and clarify requirements for requesting reviews of decisions not to inspect or enforce. The sections amended for consistency with federal regulations deal with redistribution of topsoil and topsoil substitutes and measuring success of revegetation efforts on reclaimed mine sites.

The amendments will produce environmental benefits by enabling more successful reforestation of reclaimed mine sites, and more natural stream restoration channels. They will also provide clearer instructions to those wishing to apply for a formal hearing to review the agency's decisions not to inspect or enforce sections of the regulations on particular sites. Benefits of the clarified requirements for requesting a review of decisions not to inspect or enforce include certainty about the deadline for making such requests and the specific part of the agency to which such requests should be addressed.

The public may view the changes by visiting the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall at [www.townhall.state.va.us](http://www.townhall.state.va.us) and selecting Regulatory Activity.

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